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# Lowe (Rachel L.) Papers, 1917-1959

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ArchivesSpace

## Lowe (Rachel L.) Papers

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Finding aid written in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department
<b>Creator:</b>	Lowe, Rachel L.
<b>Title:</b>	Rachel L. Lowe Papers
<b>ID:</b>	SpC MS 0778
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1917-1959
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1951-1959 (bulk)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.5 cubic feet (1 box)
<b>Physical Location:</b>	
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	This small collection consists almost entirely of correspondence written to Rachel Lowe, 1917-1959, from various collectors and experts in the study and identification of mosses.

### Preferred Citation

Rachel L. Lowe Papers, SpC MS 0778, [Folder No.], Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

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## Biographical Note

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The collection contains the correspondence of Rachel L. Lowe, a botanist and specialist in the study and identification of mosses.

Rachel Lowe was born in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1883. She attended Michigan State University, returning to Worcester after three years to care for her father and family. She married Frank Lowe in 1911; they lived briefly in Oklahoma and then moved to Portland, Maine in the 1920's. She lived in Washington, D.C. from 1938 until 1942, then settled in Harrison, Maine. Specializing in mosses and hepatics, she traveled widely and collected many plants on her trips. Her writings have appeared in the *Bryologist*, the *Bulletin of the Josselyn Botanical Society*, and the *Maine Naturalist*. She spent a considerable amount of time identifying and arranging the collection of mosses in the Portland Society

of Natural History and contributed an article entitled, "A list of Maine mosses in the herbarium," to the Bulletin of the Josselyn Botanical Society in 1939. In the preface to that article she indicated that the aim of the Portland society was to collect every species of moss from every locality.

She was recognized in 1966 as a distinguished member of the Josselyn Botanical Society for her "scholarly attainments in the field of botany, her devotion to the society and her constant encouragement and helpfulness to others interested in this branch of science." Her collection of moss specimens is represented in the University of Maine Herbarium in Orono.

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## Scope and Contents of the Records

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This small collection consists almost entirely of correspondence written to Rachel Lowe, 1917-1959, from various collectors and experts in the study and identification of mosses. The letters are arranged in chronological order although there is some evidence from the collection that Mrs. Lowe may have kept at least part of her correspondence together by correspondent. Envelopes have been kept in most cases because Mrs. Lowe often made notes on them.

Most letters concern identification of specimens collected by Mrs. Lowe. Frequent correspondents were associated with the University of Pennsylvania Botanical Laboratory, the New York Botanical Garden, DePaux University, the University of Washington, the Osborn Botanical Laboratory at Yale, Duke University Department of Botany, and the University of Michigan Department of Botany.

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## Conservation Note

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The collection has been re-housed in acid-free folders and an acid-free box.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Raymond H. Fogler Library Special Collections Department

5729 Raymond H. Fogler Library  
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Orono, ME 04469-5729  
207.581.1686  
[um.library.spc@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.spc@maine.edu)  
URL: <http://www.library.umaine.edu/speccoll>

## Restrictions on Access

Kept at Fogler Library's offsite storage facility. One week's notice required for retrieval.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Lowe papers were given to the Special Collections Department, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine by Lois LaBeau in 2001.

## Use Restrictions

Information on literary rights available in the Library.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Botanists -- Maine
- Mosses -- Maine
- Maine
- Correspondence
- Essays
- Clippings
- Articles
- Lowe, Rachel L.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
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Correspondence, 1917	Folder 1
Correspondence, 1918-1919	Folder 2
Correspondence, 1920-1929	Folder 3
Correspondence, 1930-1939	Folder 4
Correspondence, 1940-1947	Folder 5
Correspondence, 1951-1954	Folder 6
Correspondence, 1955	Folder 7
Correspondence, 1956-1959	Folder 8
Correspondence, undated	Folder 9
Essays by Rachel Lowe	Folder 10
Miscellaneous notes	Folder 11
Publications and news clippings	Folder 12